

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 17, 2005

**PUBLIC GUARDIAN**

Probate conservatorship constitutes about one-quarter (700 cases) of the workload for the Department of Mental Health's Public Guardian operations. Primary responsibility for Probate Conservators is serving the frail and vulnerable elderly who usually have no family willing or able to help with managing their finances. While having multiple health-related problems, these individuals do not ordinarily meet the criteria for involuntary mental health treatment through the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatorship program. Another underserved population is the developmentally disabled who frequently do not have an adult caregiver and whose lives may be improved by probate conservatorship.

As a result of my motion regarding this problem, in September 2004, BLUE CONSULTING concluded a Public Guardian Special Study, and made numerous recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Public Guardian's operations and services delivery. There is a need for the Public Guardian to establish and comply with case management standards that reflect a satisfactory level of

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**MOTION**

Burke	_____
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Molina	_____

customer services, monitoring growth in demand for services, and obtain additional funding for staff resources.

It is also mentioned that the decision made in the early 1990s by the Chief Administrative Office to terminate funding for probate conservatorship services, has hindered the County's ability to manage the high demand for services in a timely manner for those individuals who need probate conservatorship services, who do not meet the criteria for the Lanterman Petris Act.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the:

1. Chief Administrative Officer to work in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health on a graduated allocation of funds for staff resources in the Public Guardian probate conservatorship program, starting with the 2005-06 fiscal year;
2. Chief Administrative Officer to work in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health Public Guardian, the Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Counsel, Superior Court, and other public communication-related organizations to implement the recommendations referenced in BLUE CONSULTING's 2004 Department of Mental Health Office of the Public Guardian Special Study;

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3. Department of Human Resources to work in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health Services in developing performance standards of Public Guardian personnel, to ensure that management and other staff are held accountable to deliver quality services; and
4. Director of Mental Health to work in collaboration with the Regional Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, and County Counsel, to report back with recommendations on using probate conservatorship for the special needs of developmentally disabled with no adult caregiver.

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